

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5779

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT ET

SUBJECT: TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM FLOPS

1. ETHIOPIAN HERALD OF JULY 27 CARRIED RATHER LENGTHY ARTICLE INTRODUCED BY FRONT PAGE HEADLINE WHICH STATED THAT IN-SERVICE TEACHER (SUMMER) EDUCATION PROGRAM COURSE IN ADDIS ABABA HAS BEEN DISRUPTED. ACCORDING ARTICLE, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND DIRECTORS ATTENDING THE ANNUAL SUMMER SEMINAR REFUSED TO CONTINUE ATTENDANCE AT SEMINAR, BLAMING THE UNIVERSITY FOR FAILING TO MAKE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS FOR PROGRAM AND ASSERTING THAT PROGRAM IS IRRELEVANT TO ETHIOPIAN SOCIALISM. TEACHERS' GRIEVANCES CENTER ON (1) IRRELEVANCE OF COURSE INSTRUCTION, (2) (LACK OF) QUALITY AND EXPERIENCE OF PROFESSORS CONDUCTING THE COURSE, (3) EXCESSIVE FINANCIAL COST OF ATTENDANCE, (4) SELECTION BASIS AT LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL LEVELS FOR COURSE CANDIDATES. NOT REPORTED IN PAPER IS FACT TEACHERS ALSO UPSET BECAUSE THEY WON'T RECEIVE PAY INCREASES FOR ATTENDANCE AT SEMINAR AS IN PAST.

2. UNIVERSITY, IN PERSONS OF ACTING PRESIDENT DR. TAYE GULLILAT, EDUCATION DEAN DR. ABEBE BEKELE AND ASSISTANT DEAN OF SUMMER PROGRAM DANIEL GEMECHU, RESPONDED TO CRITICISM IN SAME HERALD ARTICLE AS FOLLOWS:

IN-SERVICE EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR TEACHERS IS PART OF UNIVERSITY SERVICE TO COMMUNITY AND IS DIRECTED TOWARDS TEACHERS WHO CAN  
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INSPIRE AND EXCITE STUDENTS. SUBJECT MATTER IN EACH FIELD WAS

REVISED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ETHIOPIAN SOCIALISM, HOWEVER, NAMES OF SUBJECTS WERE NOT CHANGED. IF PARTICIPANTS WERE CALLING FOR "RADICAL CURRICULUM REFORM" THIS CAN ONLY BE EFFECTED AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL. PROGRAM WAS WELL ORGANIZED AND INSTRUCTORS WERE WELL QUALIFIED ALTHOUGH NUMBER OF INSTRUCTORS ASSIGNED TO PROGRAM DECREASED SLIGHTLY THIS YEAR BECAUSE MANY ARE ASSIGNED TO THE ZEMETCHA. PROGRAM FEES NOT EXPLOITATIVE AND GO TO ORGANIZE FOLLOWING YEAR'S PROGRAM. FINALLY, PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS' ATTITUDES DEMONSTRATE AN ABSENCE OF GOOD WILL AND THIS IS PARTIALLY THE REASON FOR DISRUPTION OF SEMINAR.

3. TEACHERS, IN REBUTTAL (SAME ARTICLE), SUGGESTED THAT FUTURE PROGRAM SHOULD BE PREPARED IN CONSULTATION WITH GOVERNMENT, MINED AND ETHIOPIAN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION. ACCORDING TO HERALD, THIS IS SAME RECOMMENDATION MADE IN 1969 SPECIAL REPORT ENTITLED "A FORWARD LOOK."

4. COMMENT: REPORTS REACHING US INDICATE THAT TEACHERS' DEMANDS ARE SUBTERFUGE-REAL REASON FOR STRIKE IS TO OPPOSE MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND FOSTER DISRUPTION IN THE CITY. SOME TEACHERS REPORTEDLY ALSO INTEND TO REFUSE TO IMPLEMENT NEW CURRICULUM, FOLLOW DIRG GUIDELINES ON EDUCATION, ETC. UNTIL THEIR DEMANDS FOR RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE ARE MET. BE THAT AS IT MAY, MINED IN JULY 30 CONVERSATION WITH MISSION OFFICER "DOUBTED" THAT HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR OR SENIOR GRADES WOULD RECONVENE, OR HSIU REOPEN, PRIOR TO SPRING 1976.  
HUMMEL

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